

THE LACLEDE BLADE

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J. B. JONES, Editor and Publisher.

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The "Grandfather Clause"

The so-called "grandfather clause" of the suffrage amendment to the Oklahoma constitution has been declared unconstitutional by the United States district court, and it is sincerely hoped that the question will be carried to the highest court in the land in order that it may be explicitly decided whether or not the constitution of the United States may be nullified successfully by the states. The principle involved is far greater than any considerations of race prejudice, for no sane theory of the relations between the states and the federal government can state sovereignty be construed as power to defy the organic law of the land. The constitution says that only congress may declare war and coin money and do certain other prescribed things. The states might as well claim that they are "sovereign" and can override these specific limitations of the organic law as to enact legislation that flies in the face of the solemn declaration of the constitution that considerations of race, color and previous condition of servitude shall not abrogate the political rights of any citizen.

The federal question is directly involved when voters are prohibited by such considerations from voting for federal officials. It is involved more broadly in the abrogation, directly or indirectly, of a constitutional right, with no justification or excuse save race prejudice and political expediency. —Kansas City Journal.

A resident of Gary, Ind., mad because a little girl threw something at him, shot and killed the little girl's father without other provocation, and was sent to the penitentiary for life. The district court clerk wrote after the life imprisonment sentence the words "and disfranchised for ten years." The addition of the disfranchisement clause led to the man's unconditional freedom because the state supreme court held that it was an error which invalidated the judgment and sentence. There is a direct relation between such insane devotion of judges to technicalities, and the prevalent contempt for courts and demand for the recall to the judiciary. —St. Joseph Gazette.

Laclede is to have a baseball team this year. The park used for football the past two years has been leased from L. B. Jones and the diamond has been "skinned" and the field put in shape. While the members of the team have not yet been selected, there are plenty of good players in Laclede and the prospect is good for a team that will come up to the mark set by former Laclede teams and will be able to hold down any other amateur team in this part of the state. No games have been definitely arranged as yet, but the boys think they will be able to get a game for next Tuesday, Decoration day.

S. J. Hardy, for many years a resident of this vicinity, in writing to renew his subscription, says in part: "We have had a very dry winter and spring. Had a general rain in February and some sections have had local showers since then, while others have not. Wheat and oats are about done up, while corn, maize and other spring crops are looking very well. A large acreage of cotton is being planted and not nearly so much broom corn."

A Letter From Miss Wells

My DEAR FRIENDS:—

"All things come to him—or her—who waits"—even American boxes. When the box happens to be from your home town, prepared and packed by your dearest friends, and shipped months ago—then the waiting is not the easiest possible thing nor is patience the frame of mind which comes most naturally to you. But even such boxes finally arrive, as did the one from Laclede last week. Now, really, if that box could possibly have delayed any longer at any stage of its journey, it would certainly have availed itself of that privilege. First it wandered around over the United States, testing the merits of the various railway lines. Then at last, reaching New York City, it found a comfortable resting place in a dark corner of the Mission Rooms. Thence it refused to be dislodged, nor were those in charge willing to part with it. There seems to be a comfortable feeling in being surrounded with plenty, hence the store room of our Mission Rooms is nearly always full. Even after reaching Bombay, the rays of the tropical sun did not seem to warm the box into any perceptible speed, for it loitered along the way nearly three weeks before finally arriving at Vikarabad.

But last week our waiting days were ended. One day while sitting in the school room, which commands a view of the bungalow, I saw a youth on the veranda, trying to attract my attention. (Boys dare not come anywhere near our girls' school.) It seemed to be urgent, so, leaving my class, I went across to inquire. He excitedly informed me that My Box Had Come, and if I would give him the receipt, money, etc., he would bring it up. Then came my turn to get excited, and I could hardly wait till it was opened. But even during the process, our attention was engrossed by the perfect box which contained the "goodies." That receptacle is certainly a work of art in the box line and, having been so splendidly made, it came through in wonderfully good condition. Though that part of its mission is done, it now fills a long-felt want and as soon as it is properly dressed up it will be one of the comforts as well as ornaments of my room. Many thanks to the maker and giver.

When opened, Miss Simonds made a dive for the song books and was not content till she had the whole fifty-six in her lap so she could hug them all at once. You know she has taken great interest in teaching part singing to our girls and boys, that I think no one will gainsay the statement that outside of Burma, where the Karens sing so sweetly, no native children in Southern Asia can at all compare with the Vikarabad youngsters in warbling. But to find suitable music to keep four glee clubs and two quartettes going all the time is no small hunt. Do you wonder that she hailed these books with delight? Do you wonder that she would like to laud you to the skies in order that others might be led to follow your example? Doubtless she will not object at all if you see fit to change song books again soon and send us the remains.

All through the rest of the box, she had one eye on the songs and the other on what was interesting us.

Mary Gnanappa was another one greatly interested in this box. Finally when a beautiful English bible came to view and was handed to her, her joy knew no bounds. She waited for no more, but rushed off to try to comprehend her good fortune. It was a complete surprise to her, but a thing she had long desired. It was lovely in you to send us so many nice things and especially to label so many of them for your humble servant. Every donor's name called up kind memories until the spirit was in your midst, though the body remained in India. I wish I could write each one and tell you how suitable and sensible were your presents and how much they were needed and appreciated, but I cannot, so please "take the will for the deed."

And do you know nothing touched me more deeply than the old Sunday school bell? It brought to mind my Sunday school days. I saw the primary class over in the corner, and I was one of them, going to and fro to the sound of this bell.

I saw other classes in other parts of the room as in various stages of my experience I became a member of them. The faces of the pastors, many of them now sainted, came up before me and I could almost hear their words of exhortation and guidance. Seeing that old bell was like meeting an old friend or going through a photograph album. I rather think that it will do duty in our Sunday school on Sundays and on my writing table other days.

The table linen is beautiful and words fail to express our appreciation of it. We had company this week and used it for the first time. It has been greatly admired by all.

The medicines came through safely and were gladly welcomed. All will be used and some were especially needed. Some one can get a good recommendation for ability in packing, as everything was intact when it arrived.

Every piece of cloth is pretty, useful and appropriate. I have yet to find anything to compare with our American cotton goods for durability, fast color and neatness of design. The pieces specially designated elicited much commendation and praise. It was very good of you to remember us individually. Miss Simonds and Miss Partridge wish me to express their gratitude to you, but I assure them that it is beyond me to express my own, so how can I undertake anything more?

I might go on indefinitely, trying, but in vain, to express our appreciation of each and everything. The sending of that box meant a great deal of hard work for some one, sacrifice, possibly, for others, and the expenditure of time, money and effort for all. We thank you for the gifts, but above all for the kind thoughtfulness which prompted them. You have not only supplied our very urgent needs and helped on the work, but have also made us very happy and lightened our burdens by this expression of your love. Again thanking you, I am,

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH J. WELLS.

M. E. Mission, Vikarabad, Deccan, India, April 20, 1911.

The BLADE has received an invitation to attend the commencement exercises of Missouri Wesleyan college at Cameron May 31 to June 8, inclusive. There are sixteen members of the class of '11 and the program is an excellent one throughout. This is the only Methodist Episcopal college in Missouri and its growth is steady and rapid.

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